

Cooperative are going to receive benefits under the 2000 crop assistance program through this legislation. These are sugar beet growers of southern Minnesota who suffered because of a freeze in the fields last fall. They tried to process the beets. They tried to do their best. They couldn't make the money off of it. Frankly, without the assistance in this package, they wouldn't have any future at all.

Again, what is an emergency? From my point of view, if you can get some benefits to people who find themselves in dire economic circumstances through no fault of their own, and you can make sure that they can continue to survive today so that they can farm tomorrow, then you are doing what you should do.

That is what this package is all about. I fully support it.

As much as I like my colleague from Indiana and as much as I think he is one of the best Senators in the Senate, I cannot support his substitute amendment.

I hope we will have strong support on the floor of the Senate for this package of emergency assistance that comes to the Senate from the Senate Agriculture Committee.

By the way, we need to move on this matter. We need to get this assistance out to farmers. We don't need to delay and delay because then we are playing with people's lives in a very unfortunate way. We really are. This is the time for Senators to have amendments, as Senator LUGAR has. This is a time for Senators to disagree. That is their honest viewpoint. But it is not a time to drag this on and on so that we can't get benefits out to people who without these benefits are not going to have any future at all. We cannot let that happen. We cannot do that to farmers in this country.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MILLER).

#### EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 1190

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous agreement, the time until

3 o'clock is evenly divided between Senator LUGAR and Senator HARKIN.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator HARKIN, I yield 4 minutes to the chairman of the Budget Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Presiding Officer and my colleague, and I thank the chairman of the Agriculture Committee for this time as well.

Mr. President, I want to address, just briefly, the statements that were made by the Senator from Texas about whether or not this bill—the underlying bill; not the amendment by the Senator from Indiana but the underlying bill—violates the budget, whether it busts the budget.

I think it is very clear that the bill brought out of the Agriculture Committee by the chairman, Senator HARKIN, does not violate the budget in any way. The budget provided \$5.5 billion in fiscal year 2001 to the Agriculture Committee for this legislation and provided an additional \$7.35 billion in fiscal year 2002 for additional legislation to assist farmers at this time of need.

The bill that is in the assistance package provides \$5.5 billion in 2001 and provides \$1.9 billion in fiscal year 2002. It clearly does not violate the budget in any way. It does not bust the budget. It is entirely in keeping with the budget.

I just challenge the Senator from Texas, if he really believes this violates the budget, to come out here and bring a budget point of order. That is what you do if you believe that a bill violates the budget, that it busts the budget. Let's see what the Parliamentarian has to say. We know full well what the Parliamentarian would say. They would rule that there is no budget point of order against this bill because it is entirely within the budget allocations that have been made to the Agriculture Committee.

This notion of whether or not you can use years of funding in 1 year and in the second year is addressed very clearly in the language of the budget resolution itself. It says:

It is assumed that the additional funds for 2001 and 2002 will address low income concerns in the agriculture sector today.

These funds were available to be used in 2001, in 2002, in legislation today. It goes on to say:

Fiscal year 2003 monies may be made available for 2002 crop year support . . .

Understanding the difference between a fiscal year and a crop-year.

The fact is, every disaster bill we have passed in the last 3 years has used money in two fiscal years because the Federal fiscal year ends at the end of September and yet we know that a disaster that affects a crop affects not only the time up until the end of September but also affects the harvest in October and the marketing of a crop that occurs at that time. So always two fiscal years are affected.

Finally, the Senator from Texas said that this will raid the Medicare trust fund.

No, it will not. We are not at a point that we are using Medicare trust fund money. We are not even close to it at this point. I believe by the end of this year we will be using Medicare trust fund money to fund other Government programs. I have said that. I warned about it at the time the budget was considered. I warned about it during the tax bill debate. It is very clear that is going to happen, not just this year; it is going to happen in 2002, 2003, and 2004. And in fact we are even going to be close to using Social Security trust fund money in 2003.

This is not about that. This is about 2001. This is about 2002. In this cycle, this part of the cycle, we are nowhere close to using Medicare trust fund money. I would like the record to be clear.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 4 minutes.

Who yields time?

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I yield time to the distinguished Senator from Kansas. How much time does the Senator require?

Mr. ROBERTS. I thank the distinguished ranking member, and former chairman, for yielding me the time. I ask for 15 minutes if I might. If I get into a problem, maybe a minute or two.

Mr. LUGAR. I yield 15 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment offered by the distinguished former chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator LUGAR. I know agriculture program policy is somewhat of a high-glaze topic to many of my colleagues. I know many ask questions as to the details and the vagaries of farm programs, why we seemingly always consider for days on end every year emergency farm legislation and Agriculture appropriations, what we now call supplemental Agriculture bills.

In the "why and hows come" department, let me recommend to my colleagues yesterday's and today's proceedings and in particular Senator LUGAR's remarks with regard to this bill and, more importantly, the overall situation that now faces American agriculture and farm program policy. It is a fair and accurate summary that the ranking member has presented. In typical DICK LUGAR fashion, the Senator from Indiana has summed up the situation very well. If you want a 15-minute primer in regards to agriculture program policy, simply read the Senator's remarks.

Why are we here? Why are we considering this legislation? The title of this legislation is the Emergency Agriculture Assistance Act of 2001. The name implies to me that the bill is to fund pressing economic needs in farm country. We have them. That is what